

# Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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*Office of the State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal Michael Matlick*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** May 2, 2008  
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## **GOVERNOR GREGOIRE PROCLAIMS MAY 4 -10 NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK**

### **MEDIA ADVISORY: MATCHES, LIGHTERS AND CHILDREN – A DEADLY COMBINATION**

**What:** Media and Children's Event, with singing, story-time and education-time on matches and lighters safety

**Sponsors:** Washington State Fire Marshal's Office  
The Hands On Children's Museum  
The City of Olympia Fire Department  
The City of Tumwater Fire Department

**When:** May 7, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Hands On Children's Museum  
106 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
Olympia, WA. 98501

**Why:** Washington had over 25,000 fires last year and over 700 were started with matches and lighters

**Special Guests:** The Singing Firefighter and Sparky the Fire Dog

**PLEASE JOIN US IN SHARING THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

**Arson facts in Washington State\***

- There were 1,872 arsons in 2007.
- Only 20% of arsons included an arrest.
- 44% of the arrests involved juveniles (170 arrests).
- Arson cost more than \$29.4 million in property loss in 2007.
- Arson has become the fastest growing teen and pre-teen crime.

\* **Data** compiled from *National Fire Incident Reporting* and also from the *Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs*

*The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.*

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**PREVENT FIRES**  
**IT'S YOUR JOB!**

